

STARBLAZER

The background of the cover is a detailed, colorful illustration. It depicts a chaotic battle scene in space. Numerous yellow, mechanical, insect-like creatures with multiple limbs and heads are swarming across the frame. In the center, a bright pink and red energy explosion is visible. On the right side, a red, armored vehicle or ship is shown, with several figures inside. The overall style is reminiscent of classic comic book art, with bold lines and a vibrant color palette.

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 154

24p

THE SUICIDE SQUAD

This team of rejects fought two enemies — the alien, and their own High Command!

STARBLAZER

... DATA LOG ...

The 23rd century was a time of unrest, a time of war and conflict. The Earth Federation began to crumble because it was so large as to be ungovernable. Previous member states allied to form an opposition — not a peaceful one, but an aggressive, murderous one. All across The Galaxy, wars flared. Weary Earth troopers shuttled from planet to planet in order to fight the aliens.

As the battles were fought beyond the range of most spacecraft, a series of stations were built across The Galaxy. Known as farms, these stationary satellites formed a chain for the starships to follow, refuelling as they went.

Station 7 was commanded by Lieutenant Steven Martin, and crewed by his two equally experienced companions, Gee and Henry. They were left to their own devices unsupported by high command — they were The Suicide Squad.

THE SUICIDE SQUAD

SPACESTATION 7 STOOD ON THE RIM OF KNOWN UNIVERSE. BEYOND
LAY MORE STATIONS AND THE REMOTE, BARELY CHARTED AREAS OF
SPACE.



ON THE STATION WERE THE SUICIDE SQUAD, STEVE MARTIN, HENRY AND GEE.

STEVE . . . STATION EIGHT HAS CEASED BROADCASTING.

SOMETHING'S UP—TRANSMITTERS ARE FAILSAFE. PREPARE FOR ACTION.

DEEP DOWN IN THE HYDROPONIC SECTION BIO-ENGINEERED AGRIREPLICANTS SEALED UP THE STATION.

FLOORS 1-5 SEALED.



MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE—

THAT'S THE BOOBY TRAPS ARMED. IF ANYONE TRIES TO ENTER WITHOUT BEAMING THE CORRECT PULSE—
BANG!

ALL THE SPACESTATIONS, OR FARMS, WERE CONSTRUCTED WITH INBUILT AUTODESTRUCT DEVICES TO PREVENT ALIEN FORCES TAKING OVER.

ON BOARD STATION 7—

WE CAN'T BLOW UP THE FUEL WITHOUT INCINERATING OURSELVES, BUT WE CAN DOCTOR IT. ANYONE TAKING ABOARD FUEL WITH ULTONIUM IN IT WILL BE VAPORISED WHEN THE MOTORS FIRE!



EVEN AS HENRY DROPPED HE HAD THE PRESENCE OF MIND TO GRAB A WEAPON.



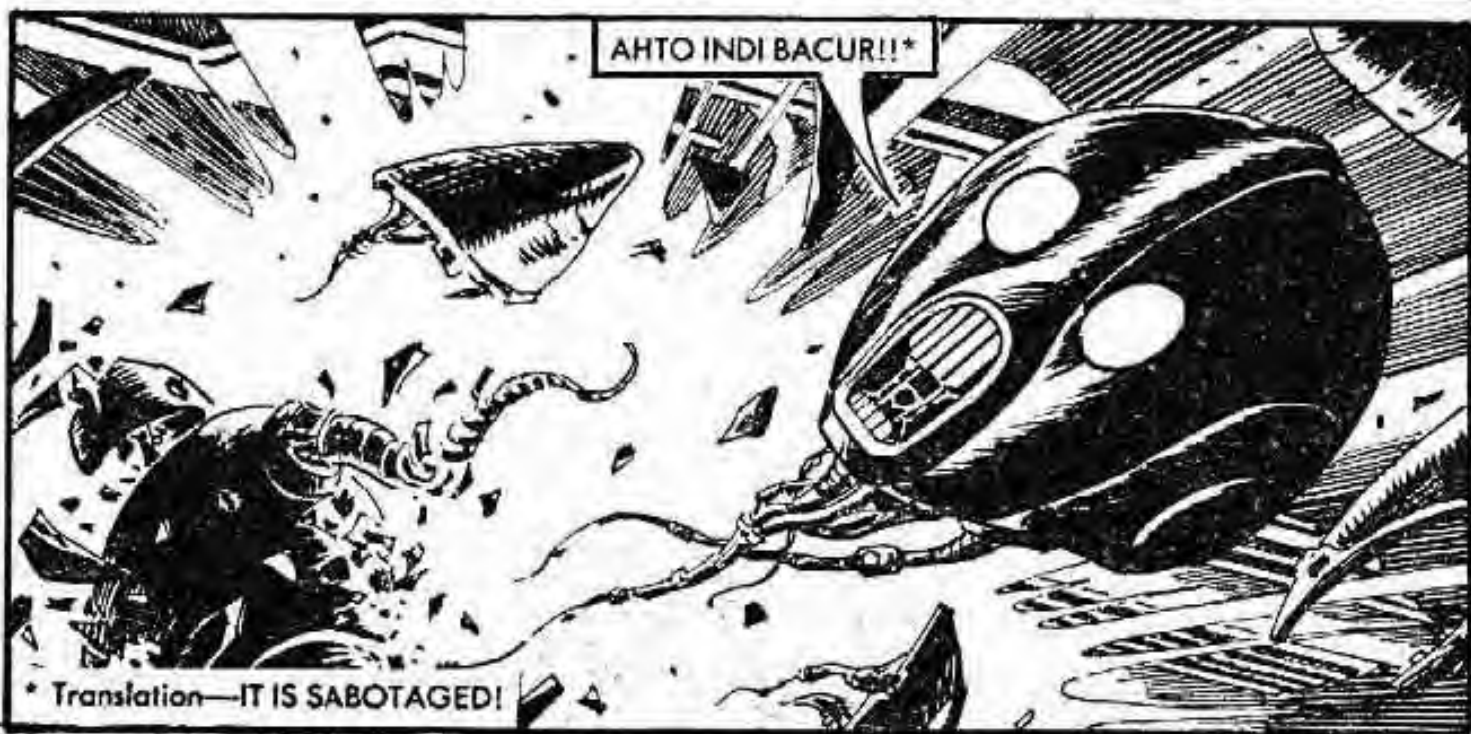
A HUGE ALIEN INTERGALACTIC CRAFT SLIPPED ALONGSIDE AND RELEASED SHUTTLES.



STRANGE ALIEN ROBOTS CUT THEIR WAY INTO THE STATION.

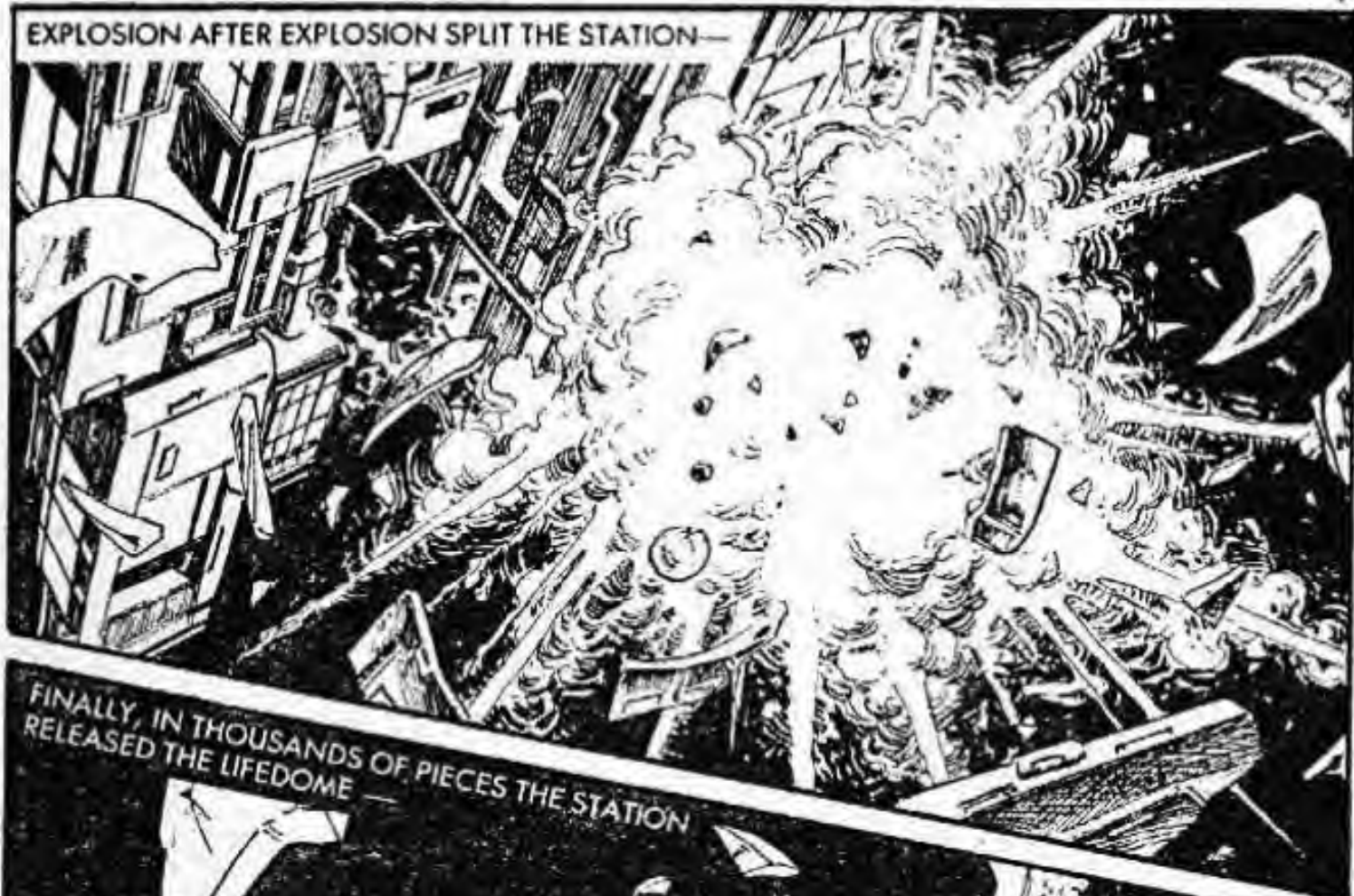


AHTO INDI BACUR!!*

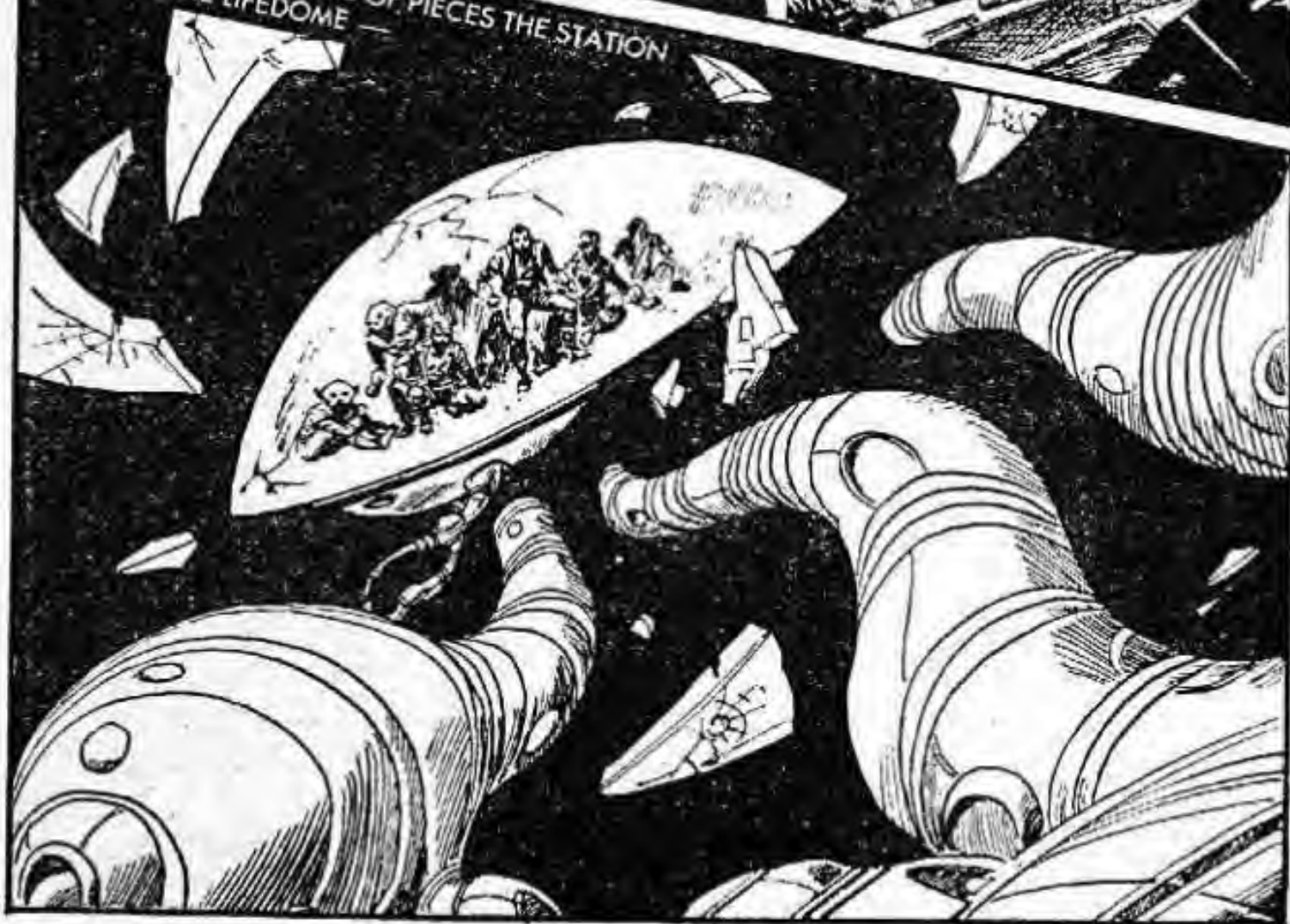


* Translation—IT IS SABOTAGED!

EXPLOSION AFTER EXPLOSION SPLIT THE STATION—



FINALLY, IN THOUSANDS OF PIECES THE STATION
RELEASED THE LIFEDOME



PULLED IN BY A TRACTOR BEAM THE SURVIVING MEMBERS WERE DEPOSITED IN A STRANGE ROOM—

ONCE THEY CAME ROUND—

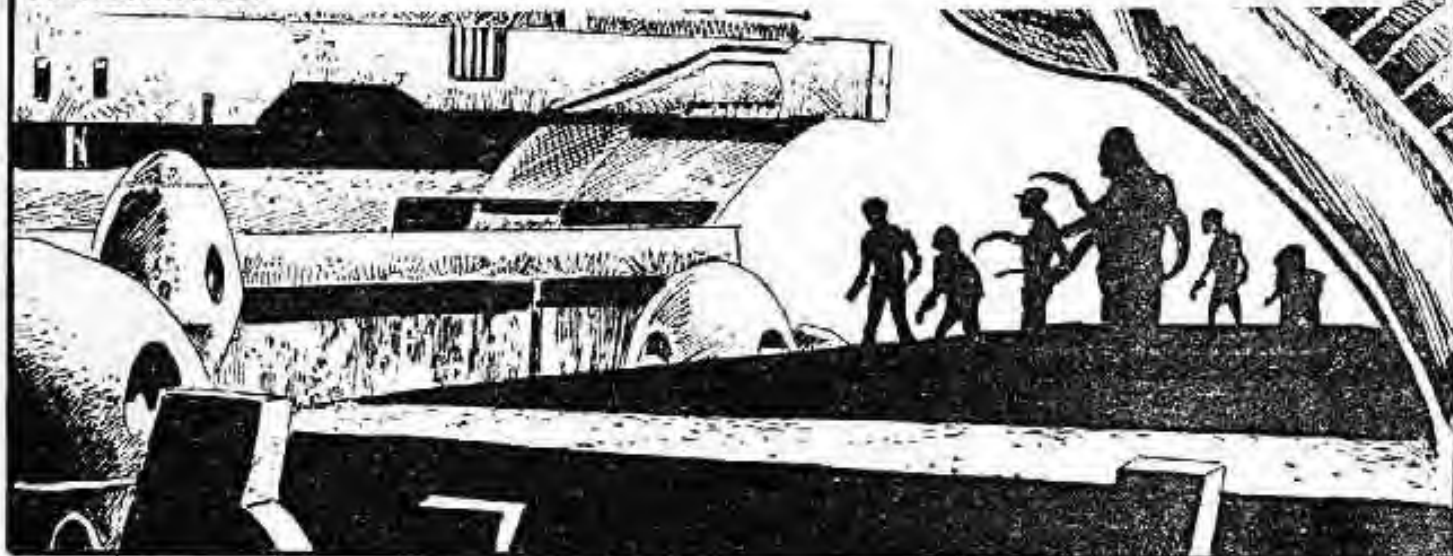
JUDGING BY THE NOISES OF REFUELLING WE'VE MADE 5 SPACEJUMPS.

A DOOR SWUNG OPEN—

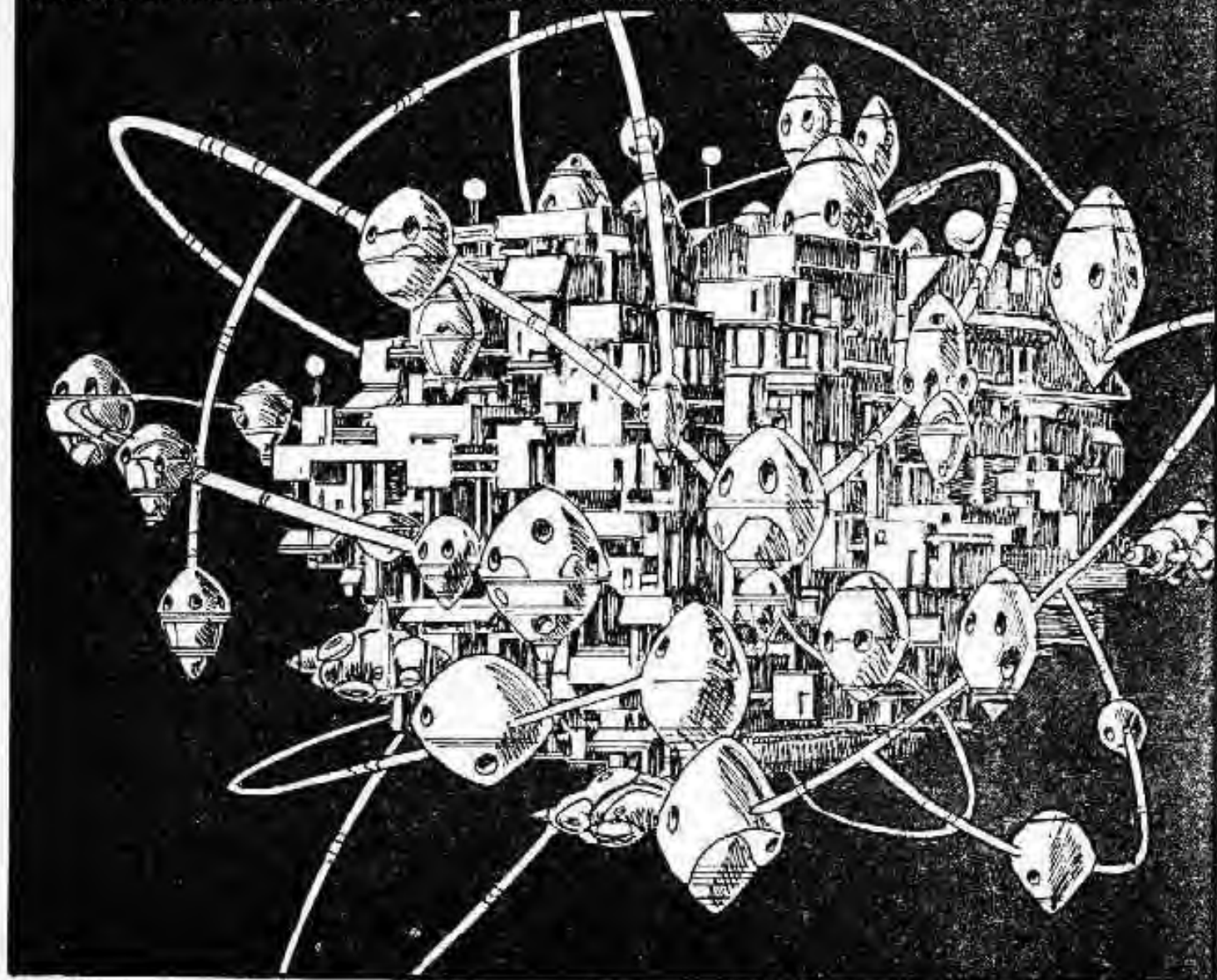
ALL OF YOU—
COME WITH ME.



THE CREW OF STATION SEVEN WERE HERDED DOWN INTO THE FAMILIAR CONSTRUCTION OF STATION THREE.



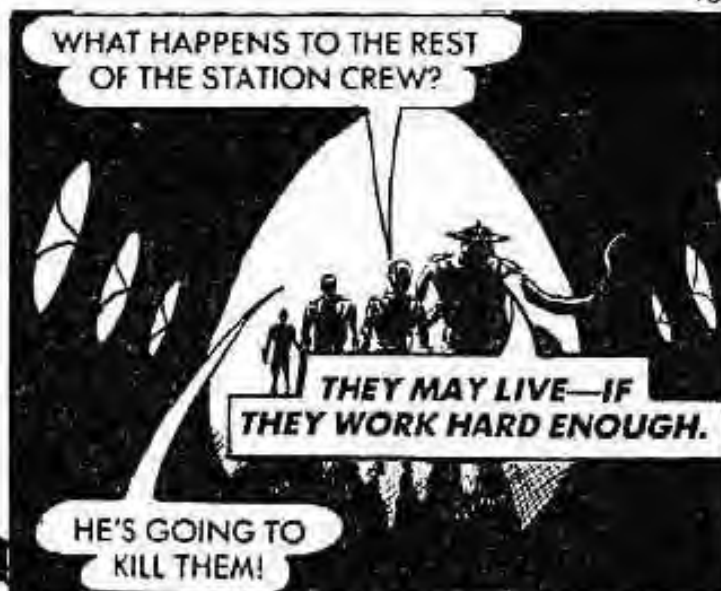
DOZENS OF THE ALIEN WARFLEET WAITED FOR THE INVASION —



THE CAPTIVES WERE ESCORTED THROUGH THE CORRIDORS INTO A COMMAND CENTRE—

I AM KAJ TASMA . . . WARRIOR OF THE TASMA! YOUR SABOTAGE WAS NOT TOO SUCCESSFUL. IT BLEW UP A SHUTTLE AND SOME SLAVE MACHINES.





KAJ ALREADY KNEW THE ALLIES' INTERGALACTIC OPERATION WAS BASED ON THE STATIONS AND KNEW THAT THE FEDERATION WOULD NOT DESTROY ALL OF THEM. HE INTENDED TO INVAD EARTH BY THE VERY MEANS DESIGNED TO STOP THEM.



STATION SEVEN, EXCELLENCY IS MORE BADLY DAMAGED THAN THOUGHT.

WELL, I'M NOT HANGING ABOUT HERE WAITING TO BE KILLED.

SO! YOU HAVE DONE BETTER THAN OTHER STATION LEADERS. WE'LL TALK AGAIN ABOUT THIS.



HENRY TOOK HIS CHANCE TO USE THE CONCEALED MINIWELDER.

RETALIATION WAS SWIFT—

AAARGH! STEVE—
GET THE WELDER.



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.



THEY REACHED A JUNCTION AND DISCOVERED A BUBBLE TRANSPORT.

HOLD IT!

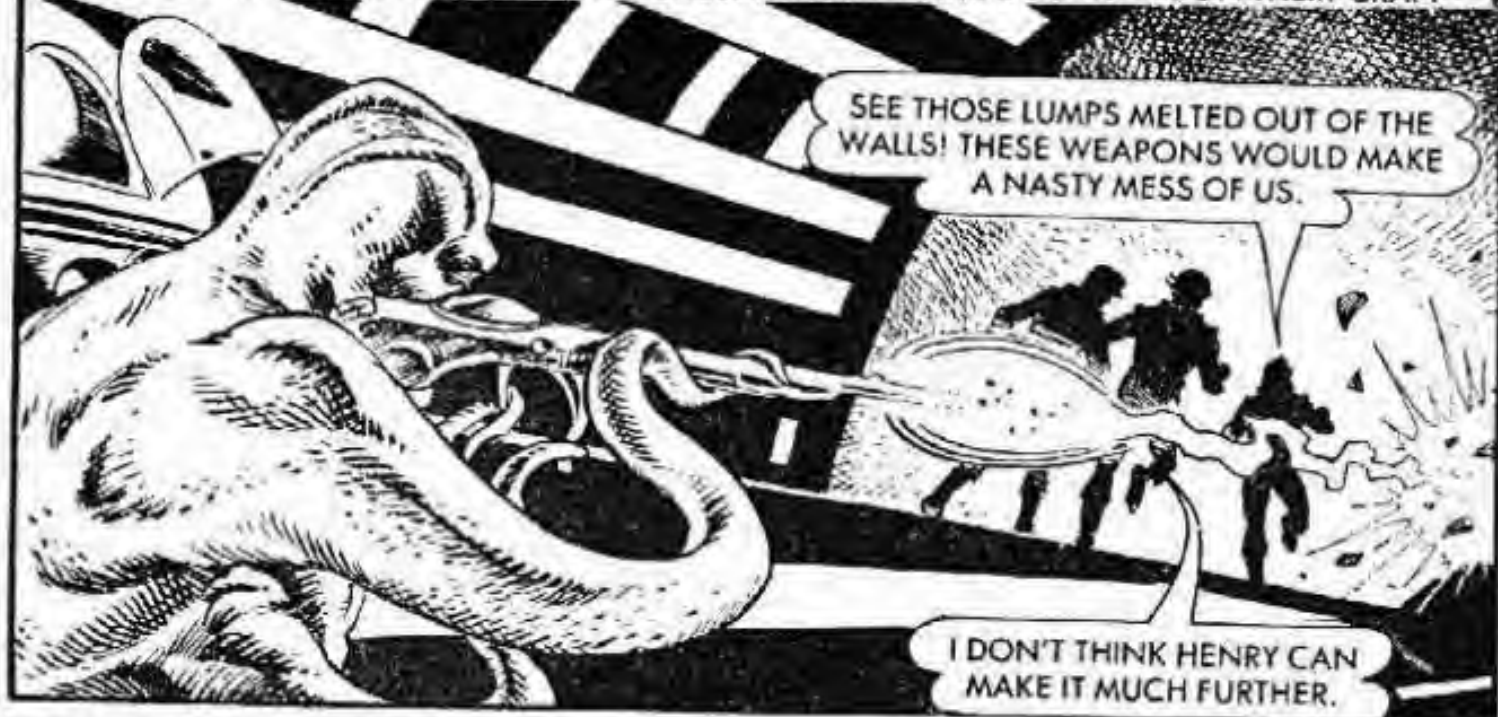
ALL IN!
YOU OUT!



THEY MADE THEIR WAY ALONG THE INTERCONNECTING TUBES OF THE GIANT STATION.



AFTER A SHORT JOURNEY THEY WERE INTERCEPTED AND FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR CRAFT—



GEE USED FULL POWER ON THE OUTER HULL—



THE AIR RUSHED OUT INSTANTLY AND THE DEPRESSURIZATION SUCKED OUT THE TASMA.

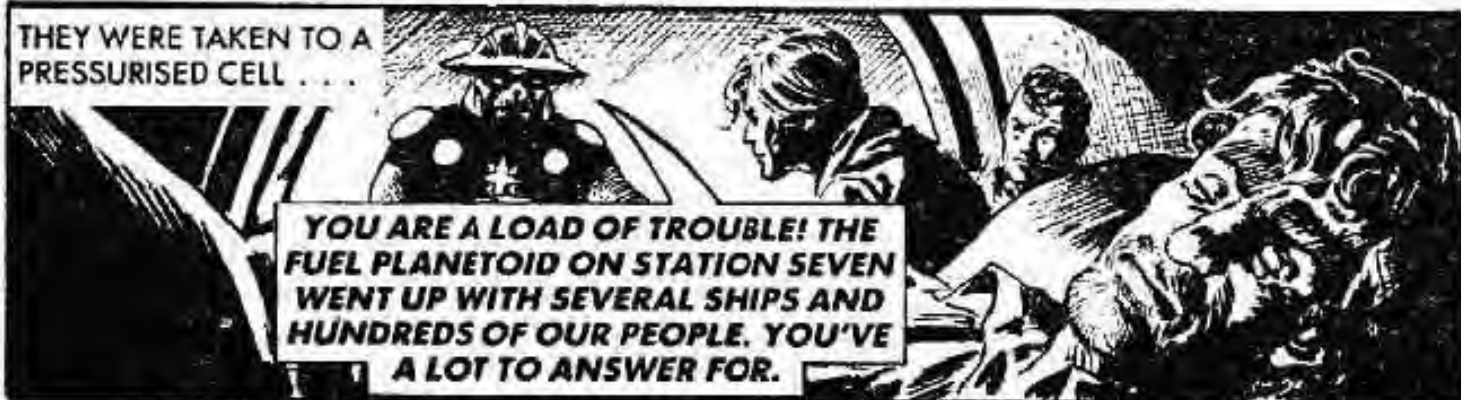


BY USING GRAV-CLAMPS, THE TRIO ESCAPED BEING SUCKED INTO SPACE, BUT NOT THE TASMA GUARD—



LUCK'S RUN OUT ON US. WE COULDN'T GO ON, WITH HENRY IN THIS STATE.

THEY WERE TAKEN TO A PRESSURISED CELL . . .



YOU ARE A LOAD OF TROUBLE! THE FUEL PLANETOID ON STATION SEVEN WENT UP WITH SEVERAL SHIPS AND HUNDREDS OF OUR PEOPLE. YOU'VE A LOT TO ANSWER FOR.

THE ALLIES WERE PREPARED FOR DEEP SLEEP DURING FLIGHT.

THEY DID ME A FAVOUR BY KILLING MY SUPERIORS. MY PROMOTION IS CERTAIN. I HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO TAKE YOU WITH ME.



UNITS LATER, THE CRYOGENIC PODS OPENED.

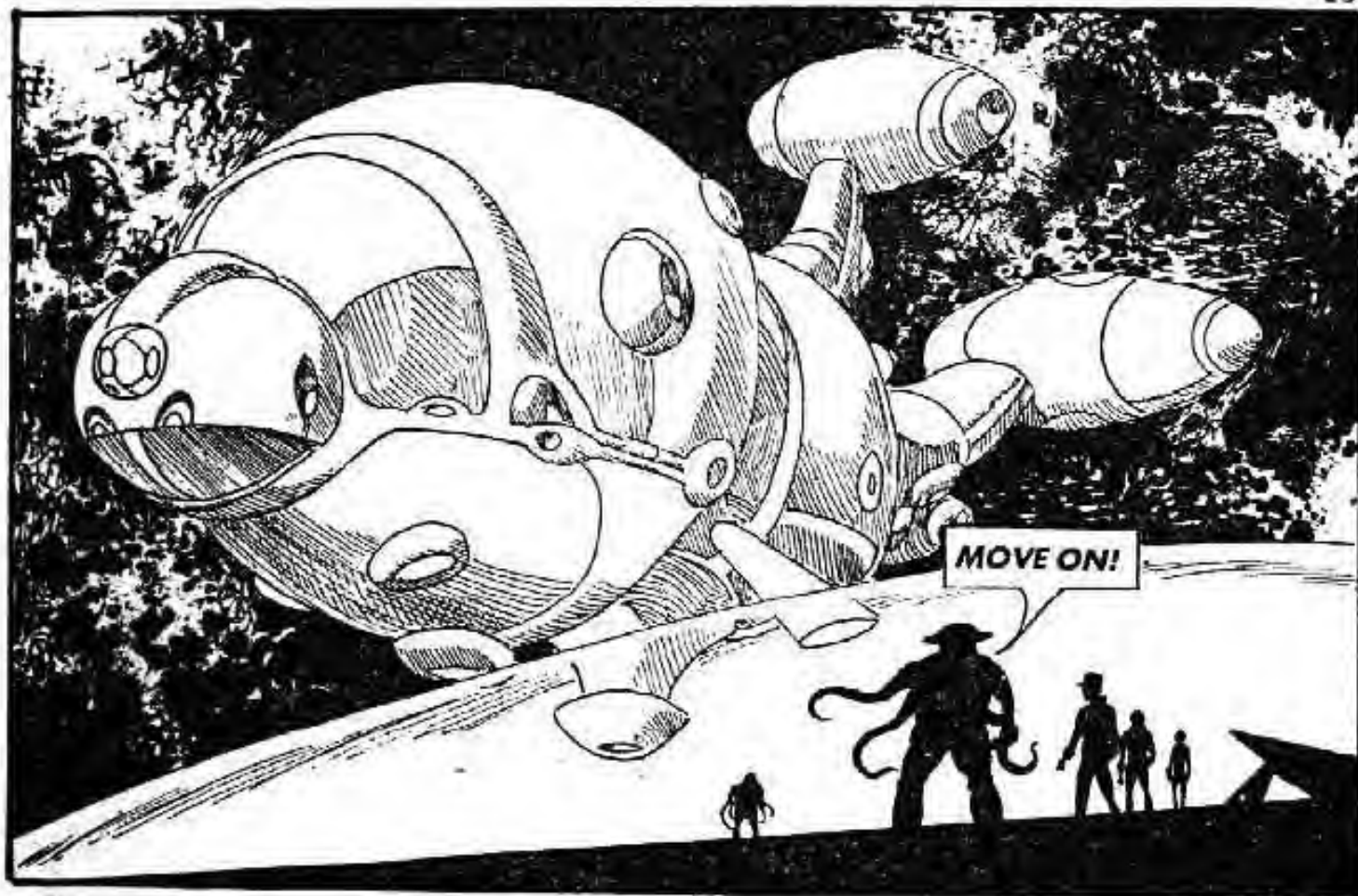
WE'VE ARRIVED SOMEWHERE! I WONDER HOW LONG THAT DRUGGED SLEEP LASTED?




WEEKS! MY WOUNDS HAVE HEALED.

THE CAPTIVES GAZED IN AWE AT THE STRANGE FORMATIONS SURROUNDING STATION 200. IT WAS THE LAST STAGE ACROSS THE VOID, AND THE HOME STATION OF THE TASMA.









CREW QUARTERS ARE GOOD
ENOUGH FOR YOU. IT'S JUST
FOR ONE 4-D JUMP.

A FEW CLIX LATER THEY REACHED THE SURFACE OF TASMA.



WHY AN AIRTUBE? WHAT'S WRONG
WITH SURFACE OR HOVERCRAFT?



THERE'S YOUR ANSWER, COMMANDER!
YOU DON'T WANT TO BE DOWN THERE.

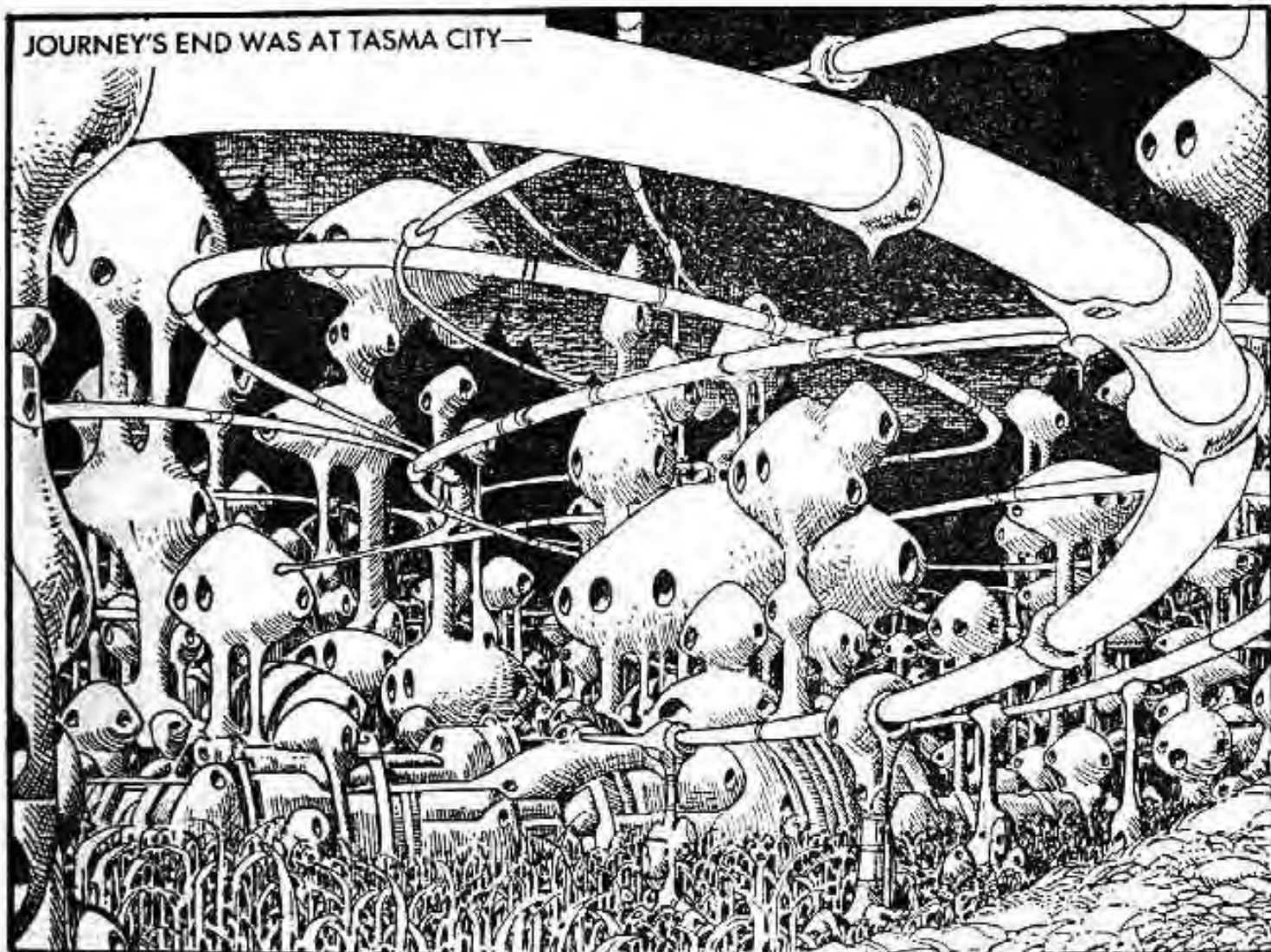
A CARNIVOROUS FOREST!



IN THE TUBECAR, THE ALLIES WERE THINKING THEY WERE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO ATTEMPT AN ESCAPE.



JOURNEY'S END WAS AT TASMA CITY—



THE CAPTIVES WERE TAKEN TO INVASION RESEARCH IN THE CITY FOR QUESTIONING—



EVENTUALLY THE TASMA GAVE UP AND IMPRISONED THEM.

THIS LOUSY CELL DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE BUGGED.

WHAT WERE THEY
TRYING TO FIND OUT?


IN THAT CASE, THEY MUST USE OUR
TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT KNOWING
HOW IT WORKS. SO THEIR LIGHT
JUMPS ARE LIMITED TO THE
DISTANCE BETWEEN STATIONS.

ABOUT SPACE JUMPS!

SO THEY HAVEN'T WORKED OUT HOW
TO MOVE MORE THAN ONE SHIP AT A
TIME.

IF WE CAN CONCEAL THAT KNOWLEDGE
WE CAN HOLD UP THE INVASION.

BUT THE CELL WAS MONITORED AND EVERY WORD HAD BEEN HEARD.



**SO YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING!
FOR NOT BEING HELPFUL, THE
INFORMATION SHALL BE EXTRACTED
FROM YOU . . . AS PAINFULLY AS
POSSIBLE.**

**KAJ, NOW IN A FURY, BEGAN A
SOFTENING-UP PROCESS—**


**HURRY, YOU TERRAN
LOW-LIFE . . . I SHALL
ENJOY EXTRACTING
EVERY OUNCE OF PAIN.**

**THE HOVERCAR SPED CROSS-COUNTRY
TO KAJ'S DEPOT.**

**WELL, FRIENDS . . . IT'S
BEEN
NICE KNOWING YOU!**

**I RECKON ONE OF
US CAN ESCAPE . . .**

**I DON'T WANT TO TELL THAT BUTCHER
ANYTHING, BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT
PAIN CAN DO?**



THOSE BARS ARE PURE
LASER ENERGY . . . SO
ARE THESE CUFFS. LIKE
POLES IN MAGNETISM
REPEL, SO DO LIKE-
KINDS OF LASER
ENERGY. IF ONE OF US
THROWS THEMSELVES AT
THOSE BARS, I RECKON
THEY'LL DISTORT
ENOUGH TO LET ONE
OF US THROUGH.

IT'S YOUR CRAZY IDEA,
GEE, OLD MATE—ON YOU GO.

GEE DIDN'T HESITATE.

IN A BLINDING
FLASH THE RAW
ENERGY CRACKLED
AND DISTORTED THE
BARS FOR A BRIEF
MOMENT.

AAAAHH!

GEE WAS THROUGH IN AN INSTANT. RELEASED FROM HIS LASCUFFS, HE DROPPED INTO THE FOREST.

KILL HIM . . . STOP
HIM ANY WAY!

SCOUT CRAFT . . . AND
NOBODY ABOUT!

GEE HEADED TOWARDS ONE OF THE TOWERS HE SAW—



GEE JUMPED INTO THE NEAREST CRAFT, AND BLASTED AWAY—



THE ALLIES FLEW BACK TO THE CITY,
CREATING HAVOC WHERE THEY COULD.

OPEN FIRE!

WHAT EXACTLY ARE
WE TRYING TO DO?

IF MY MEMORY SERVES ME WELL, EACH
TOWER HAS AN ARMOURY . . .

STEVE WAS RIGHT —


WEAPONS!
GRAB WHAT YOU CAN!

INTERESTING!
I'LL TAKE THIS.

ARMED, AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS,
THE TRIO WENT LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.




THE TASMA SOON HAD CRAFT AIRBORNE—



WE'VE GOT COMPANY!

YOUR GUNNERY IS NEARLY AS
GOOD AS MY PILOTING, STEVE.
HIT SOMETHING!




NEVER MIND AIMING, STEVE —
I'LL HIT HIM. STAND BY TO RAM!


AT THE LAST MOMENT, GEE SIDE SLIPPED THE CRAFT INTO THE TASMA GUNSHIP—




WOWEE! HIS FUEL
PODS HAVE GONE!



THEY SPED OUT INTO THE SUBURBS
AND MORE OPULENT SURROUNDINGS—



HOMES OF THE RICH AND POWERFUL
AHEAD! THERE'S EVEN A MOAT TO KEEP
OUT PEASANTS.



MIGHT AS WELL
UPSET THEM!

STEVE... WHAT EXACTLY ARE WE
TRYING TO DO?

GEE LANDED IN A RIVER—

REACH THE SPACEPORT!

BUT NOT IN THIS.
IT'S OUT OF FUEL.

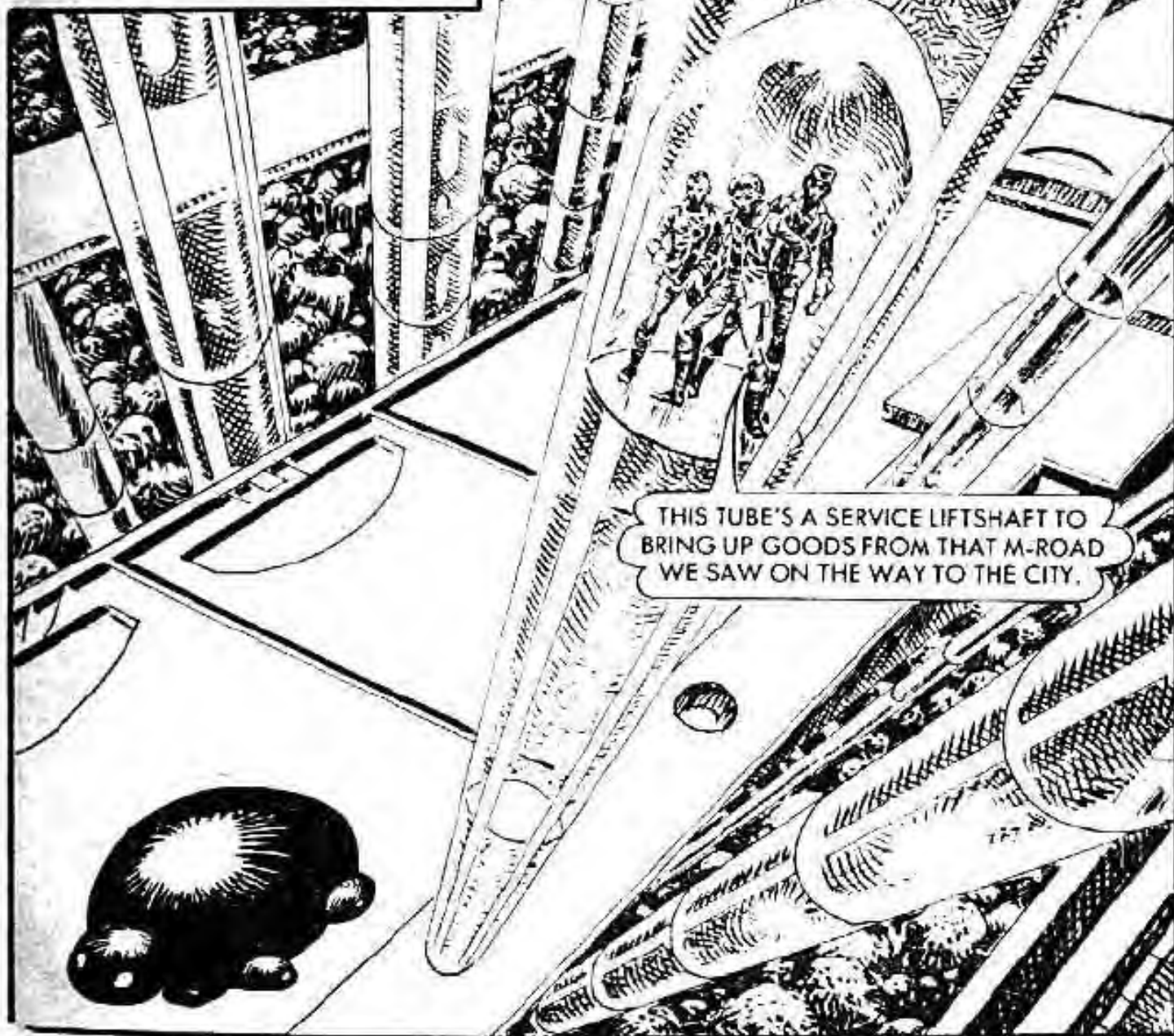
BUT—

THIS IS AN ACCESS TO
THE ROADWAY!

OH, OH! CUT OFF—QUICK UP HERE.




GEE CUT OFF THE PURSUING
GUARDS BY DESTROYING THE
LADDER.



THIS TUBE'S A SERVICE LIFTSHAFT TO
BRING UP GOODS FROM THAT M-ROAD
WE SAW ON THE WAY TO THE CITY.

THE ESCAPERS COMMANDEERED A FREIGHT VEHICLE—





WE'RE SPOTTED! I'LL HAVE TO
TAKE THAT LEFT-HAND TUNNEL.

SOON THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN OPEN COUNTRY—

DRIVE ON PAST! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK
OF THAT SOIL. I'VE SEEN RADIOACTIVE
ORES LIKE THAT.

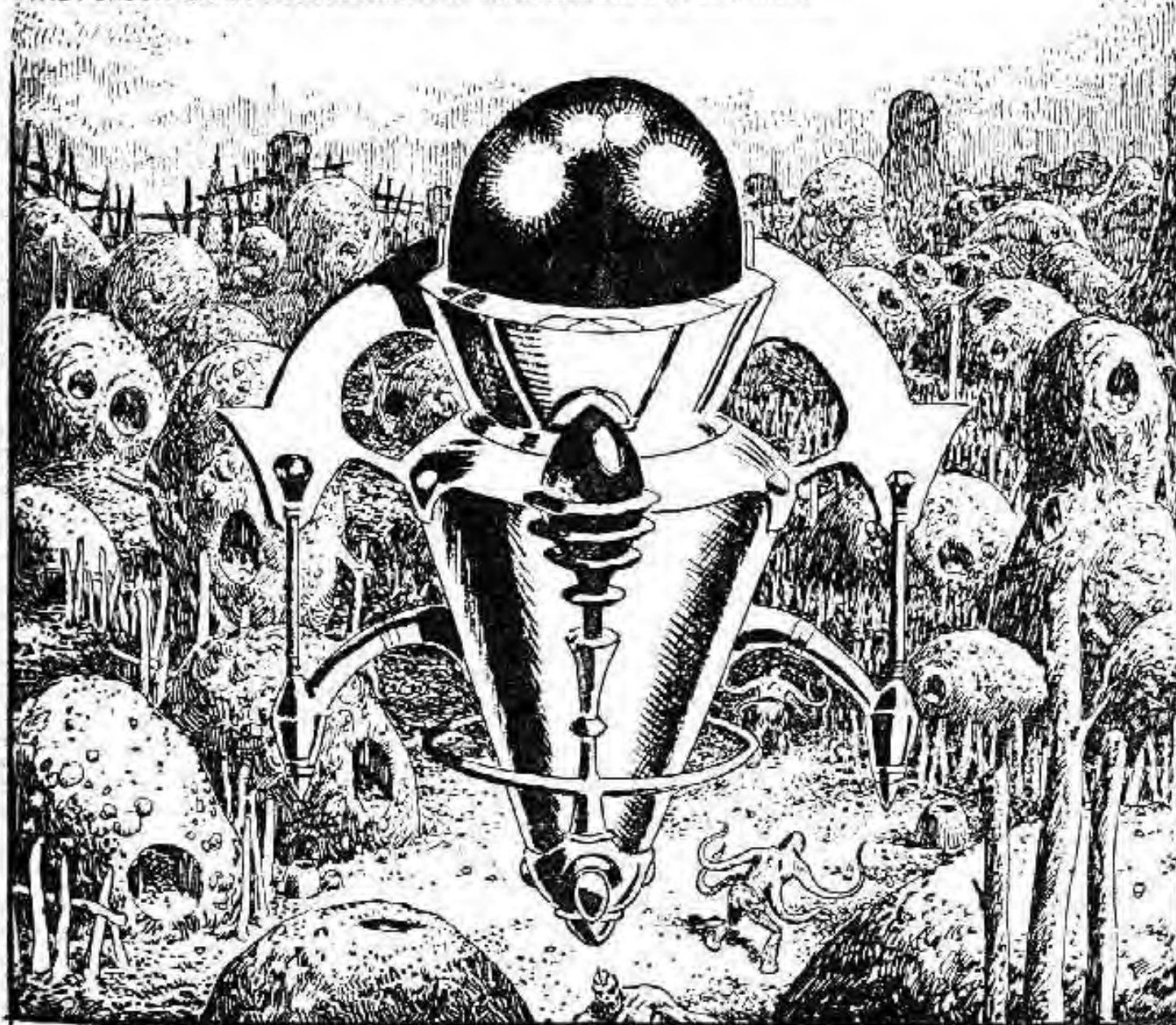


THE SECURITY GUARDS WERE ELIMINATED, BUT ONE OF THEM MANAGED TO BROADCAST AN ALERT.





THE PURSUIT CRAFT DESCENDED AND TASMA BEGAN SEARCHING—



FROM THEIR CONCEALED POSITION, THE TRIO OPENED FIRE—

THAT'S THEM DEALT WITH!

AT LAST THE THREE TRIUMPHED AND CROSSED THE DESERT
TO REACH THE SPACEPORT WHERE THEY HAD DISEMBARKED.



NO BUILDINGS OR WATER IN THIS
DESERT. PRESS ON OVER THE JUNGLE!



WORD OF THE ESCAPE WAS RELAYED TO KAJ

THEY CAPTURED A CLOUD CONTROL
MACHINE AND ARE OVERFLYING THE
JUNGLE WITHOUT ENOUGH FUEL.

SO! THE JUNGLE GROWTH WILL
MAKE SHORT WORK OF OUR
TROUBLEMAKERS!



THE CRAFT LOST HEIGHT—

THE MOTOR FALTERS!

WE COULD TRY TO LAND ON
THE BEACH OF THAT LAKE.

LOOK OUT!
ANOTHER CRAFT!



THE SHIP'S CREW MADE A BRAVE ATTEMPT AT RESISTANCE.

WITH THE REMNANTS OF THE FUEL, STEVE TOUCHED DOWN

WHY HAVE A SECURITY BOAT HERE? THE
TASMA MUST HAVE SOME IMPORTANT
SECRET BETWEEN HERE AND THE
OVERLAND TUBE.



IT DIDN'T TAKE THEM LONG TO TAKE OVER THE WATER SHIP—



NO ACTIVITY YET. MAYBE THOSE TWO CREWMEN DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO TRANSMIT ANYTHING.

STEVE TOOK A CHANCE ON SUBMERGING, AND THEY MOVED THROUGH THE DARK WATERS —



THANK GOODNESS
THEY'RE HARMLESS...



THEIR SEARCH WAS FRUITLESS—

WE'VE BEEN ALL ROUND THE LAKE!
NOTHING . . . SO WHAT IS THIS
BOAT DOING HERE?

I THINK IT'S A RESCUE MACHINE IN
CASE DEFENCES AGAINST THE
JUNGLE FAIL—SOMEWHERE
NEARBY.



THIS LOOKS TO ME VERY
MUCH LIKE A FLAMETHROWER.

JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO TRAVEL
THROUGH THIS DEADLY FOREST.



THEY STARTED ON AN OVERLAND JOURNEY TO FIND WHAT THE SUB WAS ON STANDBY FOR.

AS THE AMPHISUB BURNED ITS WAY THROUGH JUNGLE THE TREES SPAT ACID, BURNING INTO ITS ARMOUR.



AS A LAST DESPERATE GAMBLE, STEVE DECIDED TO BURN A GREAT CIRCLE ROUND THE AMPHISUB.

THE EVIL PLANT LIFE WILL DAMAGE THE DRIVE ANYTIME NOW.

THE MOVE PAID OFF, GIVING A GLIMPSE OF A BUILDING IN THE JUNGLE.

IT WON'T RESTART. THE ACID'S GOT TO THE MOTOR.

ALL OUT! FAST AS YOU CAN TO THAT BUILDING—HANDWEAPONS AT THE READY!

THE FOREST GREW BACK OVER THE SCORCHED EARTH AT INCREDIBLE SPEED. THE COMRADES FOUGHT FOR THEIR LIVES.





OBVIOUSLY THEY DON'T EXPECT VISITORS
BECAUSE THAT WINDOW IS ACTUALLY
GLASS.

AND GLASS
IS EASILY BROKEN.



HENRY DROPPED THROUGH THE BROKEN WINDOW, RIGHT INTO THE PATH OF TROUBLE —

JOVE'S TEETH!

BYE, BYE!



HENRY PROWLED THE BUILDING, USING HIS CONKUSS PHASER TO ELIMINATE THE GUARD—



HENRY BURST IN—

A LAB! SO THAT'S IT! PORTABLE
VERSIONS OF THE PROBE THAT PUT US
TO SLEEP ON STATION SEVEN!



THIS IS OBVIOUSLY THE ROOM THAT WILL
ANSWER ALL OUR QUESTIONS.



HENRY DEALT WITH THE LAST TWO TASMA—



YOU CAN SEE WHY THEY PUT THIS RESEARCH IN THE JUNGLE.



NOW TO LET THE OTHERS IN.



TOO RIGHT, YOU COULDN'T HAVE IT NEAR A CITY. IMAGINE EVERYONE SNOOZING WHENEVER THERE'S AN EXPERIMENT!

ON THE ROOFTOP—

PORTABLE SLEEPWEAPONS! A MARVELLOUS ADVANTAGE FOR AN INVASION FORCE.

OR FOR ANYONE STEALING A SPACECRAFT.

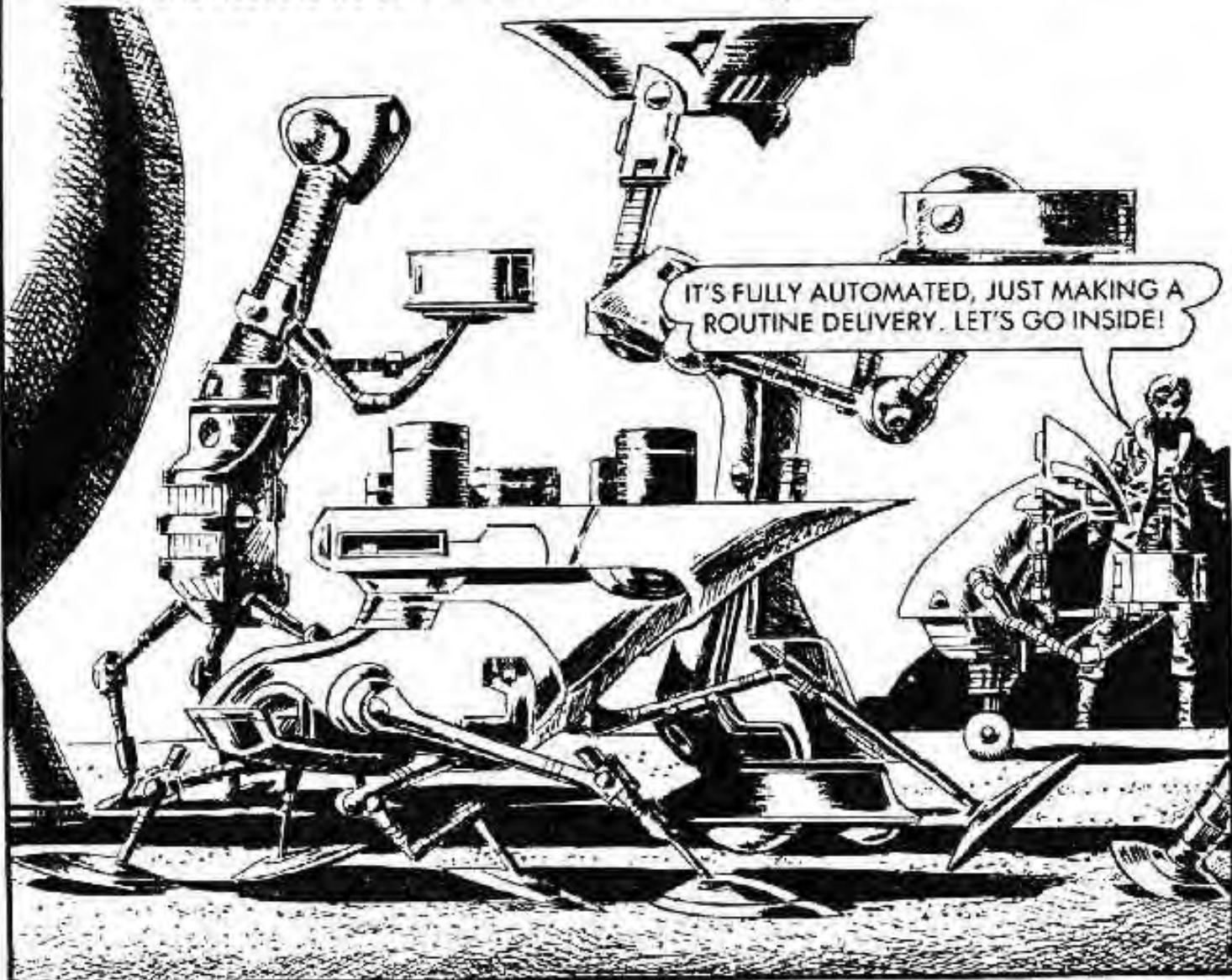
FIRST, WE'VE GOT TO CROSS THIS JUNGLE TO THE SPACESPORT. HOW?

JUST SIT AND WAIT. THIS IS THE FIRST FLAT-TOPPED BUILDING WE'VE SEEN . . . IT'S A LANDING PLATFORM.

THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG.

HERE'S ONE!

THE ROBOT SHUTTLE AND ITS SERVOMECHANISMS PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE THREE.



THE SHUTTLE LIFTED OFF—

IT'S COLD AND WINDY IN HERE. THE SHUTTLE'S NOT INTENDED FOR LIVING THINGS.

CHEER UP! LET'S HOPE IT'S GOING WHERE WE WANT TO GO.




THEY SOON REACHED THE SPACEPORT—

THE TRANSFER
FROM SHUTTLE TO
STARSHIP WAS
EASY—

THAT'S THE JOB FOR US—AN
AUTOSTARSHIP WITH NO CREW ABOARD
TO STOP US.

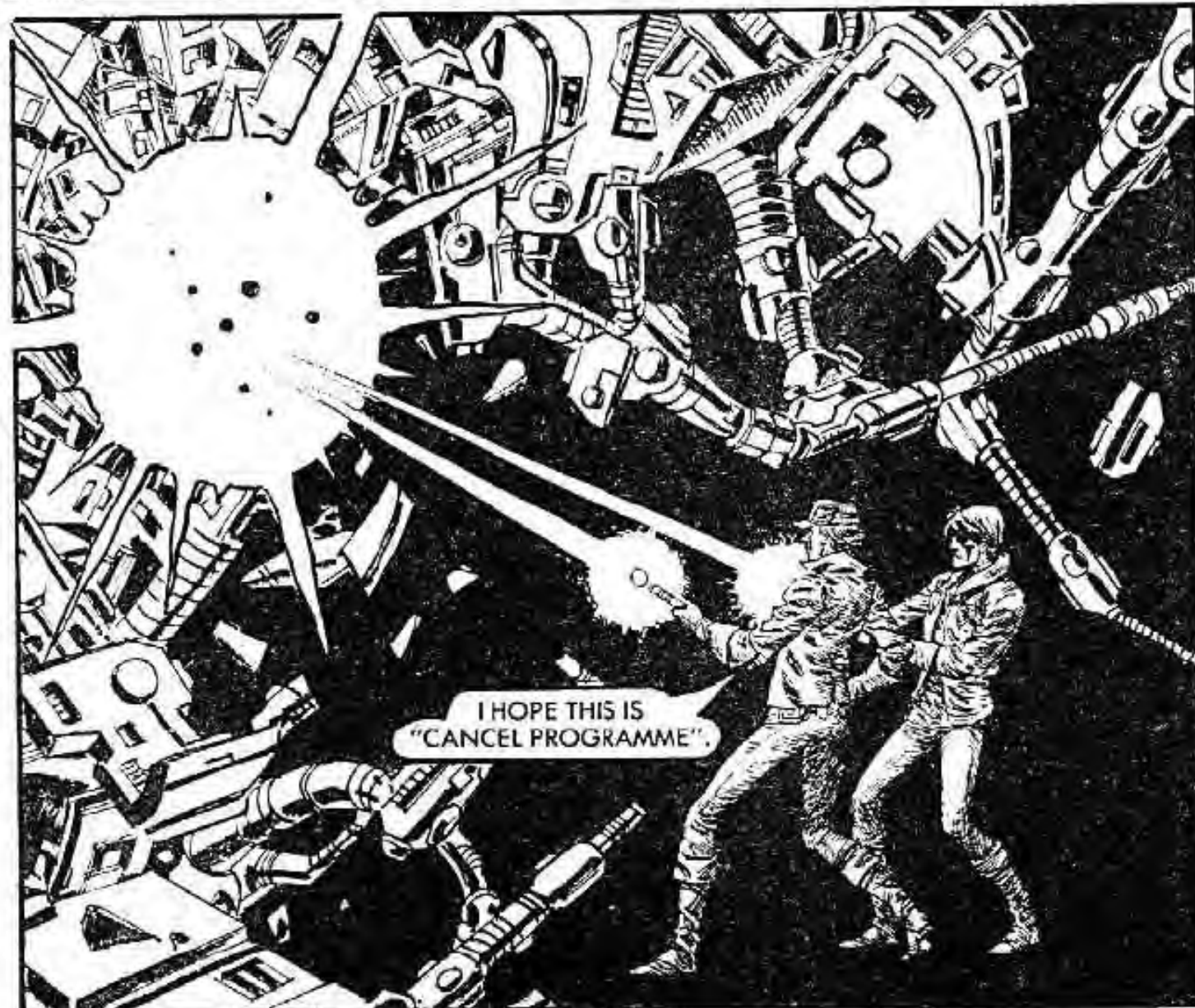
BUT ONCE ABOARD THE STARSHIP, ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE.





WE'RE INTERFERING WITH THE SHIP'S PROGRAMME. GEE COULDN'T GET THE AIRLOCK SHUT BECAUSE LOADING IS INCOMPLETE.

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITH THIS INFERNAL MASTER CONTROL.



I HOPE THIS IS "CANCEL PROGRAMME".

THE MACHINES CAME TO A HALT—

NO TIME TO REPROGRAMME THE SHIP,
THAT'S "MANUAL OVER-RIDE". NOW I
CAN GET THE AIRLOCK SHUT.

SPEED IT, HENRY! SECURITY WITH
HEADGEAR SLEEP PROTECTION ARE
DRIVING ACROSS THE FIELD.

HENRY GOT THE PORT SHUT AND STEVE BOUNCED THE SHIP OUT OF ATMOSPHERE—

IN SPACE, STEVE RAN THROUGH THE SPACEJUMP PROCEDURE.



STEVE AND GEE WENT SPACEWALKING WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE STATION —



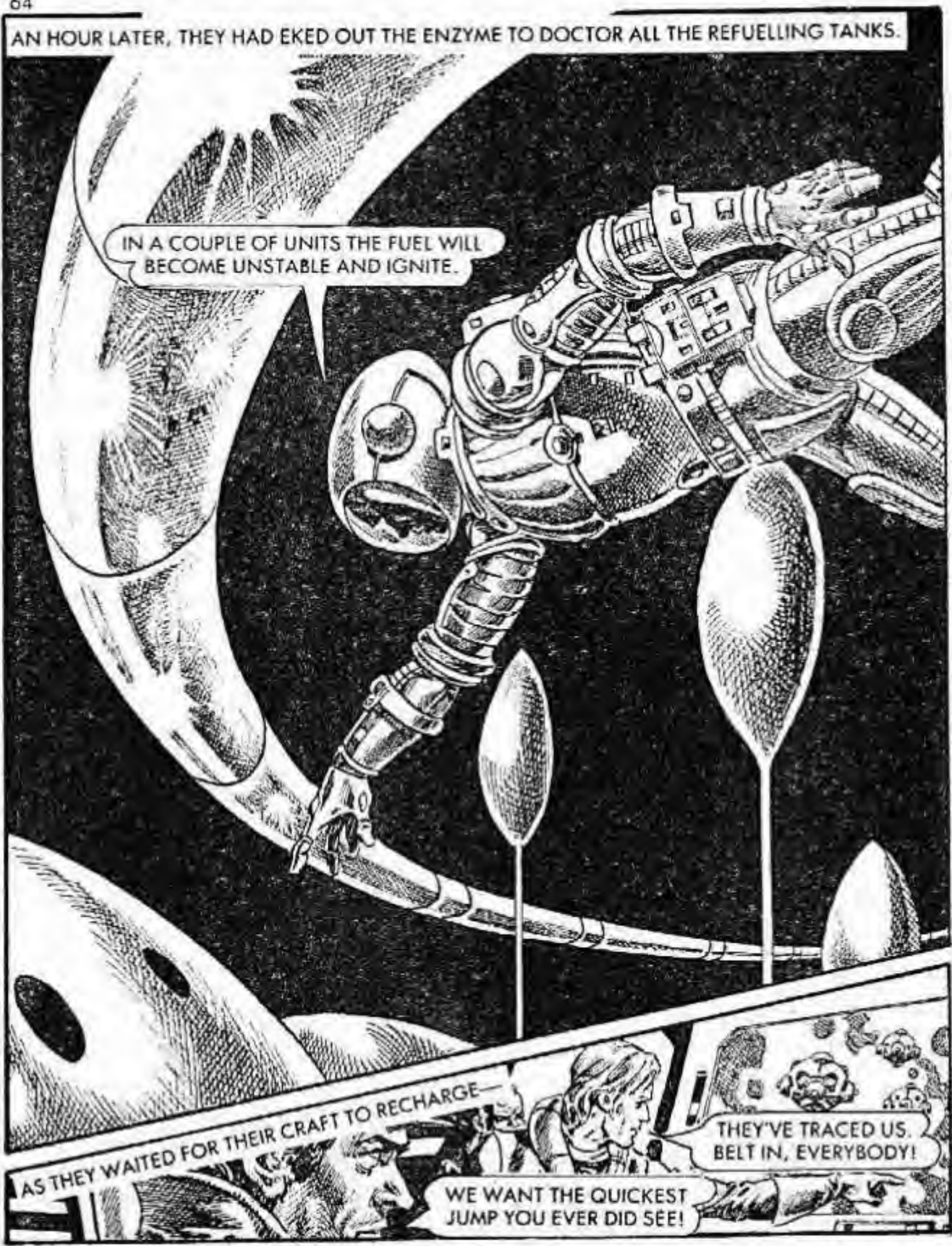
AN HOUR LATER, THEY HAD EKED OUT THE ENZYME TO DOCTOR ALL THE REFUELLING TANKS.

IN A COUPLE OF UNITS THE FUEL WILL
BECOME UNSTABLE AND IGNITE.

AS THEY WAITED FOR THEIR CRAFT TO RECHARGE—

WE WANT THE QUICKEST
JUMP YOU EVER DID SEE!

THEY'VE TRACED US.
BELT IN, EVERYBODY!



EVEN AS STEVE PUT HIS CRAFT INTO HYPER JUMP,
THE TASMA FLEET LATCHED ONTO THEIR CRAFT.

BLAST—THEY'VE
TAILED US!

LET'S HOPE WE'RE FAR ENOUGH
AWAY WHEN THE BLAST COMES.

AS THEY TRIED TO CLEAR THE AREA —

THERMO-SHIELDS GONE!

THEY WERE BOWLED OVER BY THE EXPLOSION . . .

... BUT THEY EMERGED ALMOST UNSCATHED.

NOTHING FOLLOWING!

NO... AND WE'RE BACK
WHERE WE STARTED.

NOT QUITE! WE'VE BLOWN ONE
STATION, AND CRIPPLED THEIR FLEET.
MAYBE WE'LL GET A MEDAL, AND A REST.
THOUGH I DOUBT IT. SOMEBODY,
SOMEWHERE WILL FIND SOMETHING TO
FIGHT.

SO THE SUICIDE SQUAD SURVIVED TO FIGHT AGAIN...
KNOWING THAT THE NEXT FIGHT COULD BE THEIR LAST.

**DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER *ACTION-PACKED*
ADVENTURE**



**NOW
ON
SALE**



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COMMENTS



STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN

86



Soyuz 27 was launched on January 10, 1978 for a 6 day 0 hour 4 min. mission. On board was Lieutenant Colonel Vladimir A. Dzhaniybekov, 35, Air Force. His next flight was on Soyuz 39 on March 22, 1981 on a 7 day 22 hour 43 min. mission. A third flight followed on June 24, 1982 on Soyuz T6. This mission lasted 7 days 22 hours 42 mins. He also commanded the Soyuz T-12 mission which was launched on 17 July, 1984. It lasted 11 days 19 hours 14 mins.